



Patience, hormone replacement therapy and rain!' Women, ageing and drought in Australia: Narratives from the mid-age cohort of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health

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Abstract:

OBJECTIVE: This paper explores women's experiences of drought in Australia. Despite the significance of drought for rural life in Australia, there is little research seeking to understand its psychological consequences. There is also a need to recognise gendered experiences of drought and for research that addresses its long-term effects as people age in prolonged drought-affected areas. **DESIGN:** The study explores longitudinal qualitative data collected by the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. Free-text comments (n Euro Surveillance (Bulletin European Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 217), collected via mailed survey at five time points (1996, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007) from the same 77 women, were subjected to a narrative analysis. **PARTICIPANTS:** Participants from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health who were aged 45-50 when the study began in 1996. **RESULTS:** Findings indicate that drought has an impact on women as they age, particularly in reference to menopause, access to support systems and retirement. **CONCLUSION:** This study concludes that the experience of drought cannot be disentangled from the realities of gender and ageing.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event

Extreme Weather Event: Drought

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Rural

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Non-United States: Australasia

Health Impact: ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Developmental Effect, Mental Health/Stress

Developmental Effect: Other Functional Deficit

Medical Community Engagement: ☒

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Other Vulnerable Population: menopausal, aging women

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Resilience: ☒

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified